

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, OCTOBER 1994**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Series updated since the September 1994 issue are: business expectations; population; labour force; industrial disputes; housing finance; building approvals; building commencements; established house price indexes; price indexes of house building materials; retail turnover; new motor vehicle registrations; State accounts; and engineering construction work.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- In the short term, business expectations of sales growth in the ACT (3.8%) are stronger than the Australian figure of 2.3 per cent. In the medium term, sales are expected to increase by 2.3 per cent in the ACT and 4.1 per cent nationally.
- The estimated resident population of the ACT at 31 March 1994 was 300,300, an increase of 900 in the March quarter 1994 and 1,700 since March 1993. The 0.3 per cent growth in the population in the March 1994 quarter was the same as that reported for Australia in the same period.
- Trend labour force participation rates in the ACT increased by 0.4 per cent in September 1994 to reach 73.1 per cent, the highest level since December 1993. Nationally, the participation rate increased by 0.2 per cent to 63.1 per cent, the highest it has been since June 1991 when it was also 63.1 per cent.
- Trend estimates of the value of housing commitments in the ACT fell by 0.4 per cent in July 1994. In the twelve months from July 1993, however, the value of housing commitments in the ACT increased by 21.0 per cent to \$4,234.4 million.
- The ACT price index for established houses fell by 0.8 per cent in the June quarter 1994 and remained unchanged from June 1993. Nationally, the index increased by 1.2 per cent in the quarter and 3.4 per cent over the year.
- Trend estimates of retail turnover were 3.3 per cent higher in July 1994 than recorded in July 1993. A number of components to the total showed growth over the year with Newsagents and Floor coverings stores (both unpublished in *ACT Business Indicators*) showing the greatest increases with July 1994 being 13.3 per cent and 10.5 per cent higher, respectively. Grocers, confectioners and tobacconists and Butchers (also unpublished) were the other components to show strong growth in the period with increases of 6.2 per cent each.
- Trend estimates of new motor vehicle registrations revealed there were 13 fewer new motor vehicles registered in the ACT in August 1994, a fall of 1.4 per cent from the previous month. Nationally there were 20 fewer new motor vehicles registered in the period.
- The ACT recorded increases in trend series Gross State Product of 0.6 per cent in both the March and June quarters. This growth has slowed slightly due to some of the components (Wages, salaries and supplements and Net indirect taxes) showing falls in recent periods. Trend estimates of State final demand in the ACT also showed reasonable growth with increases of 0.4 per cent and 1.0 per cent on the previous quarter and same period last year, respectively.
- The value of engineering construction work done in the ACT in the June quarter 1994 increased by 6.0 per cent to \$42.1 million. All States and Territories showed an increase in the value of work done in the period, producing a national increase of 15.8 per cent in the June quarter 1994.

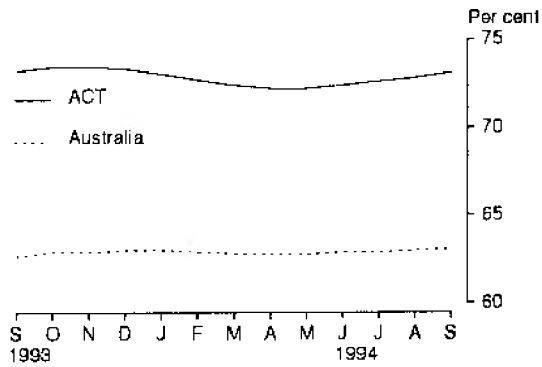
DALMA JACOBS
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

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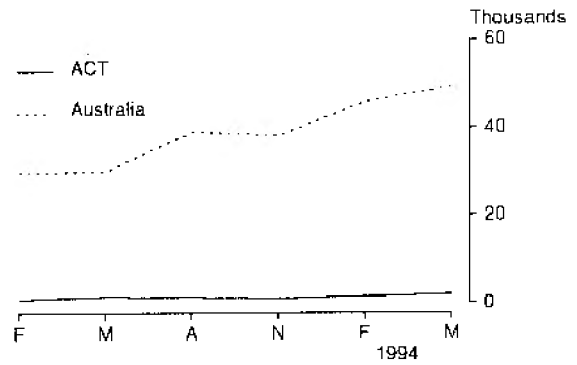
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

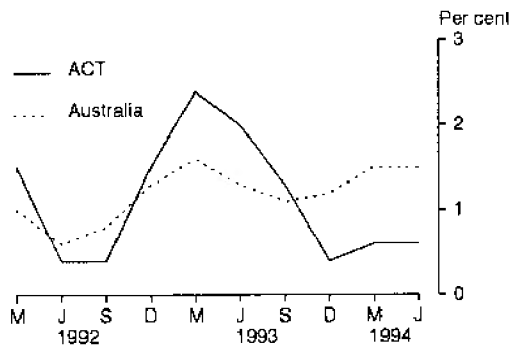
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES
Trend series



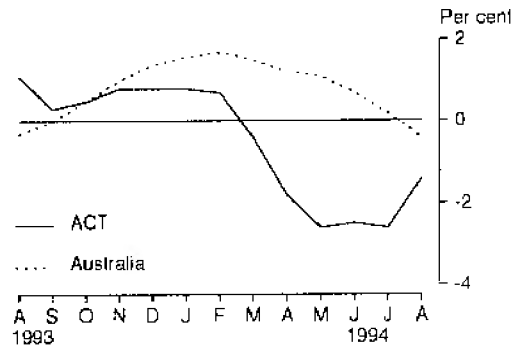
JOB VACANCIES
Original series



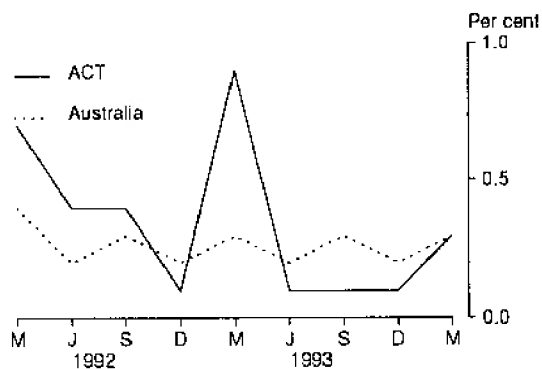
GROSS STATE PRODUCT
Percentage change from previous quarter
Trend series



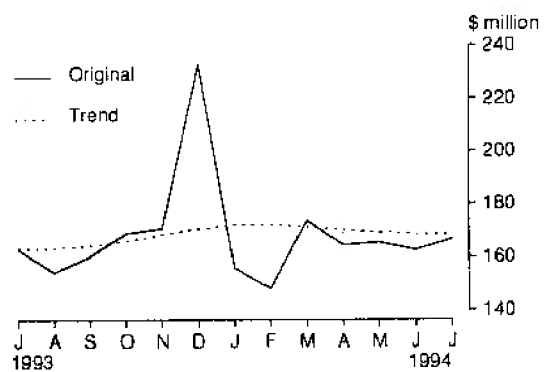
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
Percentage change from previous month
Trend series



POPULATION
Percentage changes



RETAIL TURNOVER



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,
DECEMBER QUARTER 1994/SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1995
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE
(per cent)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Short-term		
Sept. 1993–Dec. 1993	1.1	3.6
Dec. 1993–Mar. 1994	0.1	– 1.4
Mar. 1994–June 1994	1.6	1.9
June 1994–Sept. 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. 1994–Dec. 1994	3.8	2.3
Medium-term		
Sept. 1993–Sept. 1994	1.5	2.9
Dec. 1993–Dec. 1994	2.7	3.1
Mar. 1994–Mar. 1995	3.8	3.9
June 1994–June 1995	6.2	3.3
Sept. 1994–Sept. 1995	2.3	4.1

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, OCTOBER 1994

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period	Change from same period	Latest figure	Change from previous period	Change from same period
			(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, March qtr 94	'000	300.3	0.3	0.6	17 803.3	0.3	1.0
Natural increase	no.	820	5.8	- 13.6	34 933	6.1	- 8.4
Net migration	no.	54	- 110.3	96.9	22 528	446.4	22.8
Total increase	no.	874	246.8	- 67.6	57 461	55.1	1.7
LABOUR FORCE, Sept. 94p							
Original series							
Employed	'000	154.9	0.5	1.8	8 087.4	2.6	3.9
Unemployed	'000	11.8	11.3	- 4.8	830.8	4.1	- 10.8
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.1	10.9	- 5.3	9.3	1.1	- 13.1
Participation rate(a)	%	72.9	1.1	- 0.4	63.8	2.6	1.1
Long-term unemployed (Aug. 94)	'000	3 445	54.3	24.2	290 072	—	- 13.3
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Aug. 94)	%	32.6	53.1	32.5	36.4	0.8	- 0.3
Trend series							
Employed	'000	155.2	0.3	2.1	7 984.0	0.3	3.6
Unemployed	'000	12.0	2.6	- 4.8	830.7	- 0.7	- 12.6
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.2	2.9	- 6.5	9.4	- 1.1	- 14.5
Participation rate(a)	%	73.1	0.4	- 0.1	63.1	0.2	0.6
JOB VACANCIES, May qtr 94	'000	1.9	26.7	18.8	49.4	7.6	63.6
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, June 94							
Working days lost	'000	—	—	- 100.0	28.4	21.4	- 43.2
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended June 94)	no.	80	- 2.4	1 042.9	91	- 3.2	- 46.5
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, July 94							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	10.2	4.1	- 5.6	755.9	- 6.4	23.3
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	16.8	- 13.0	4.3	193.9	- 12.3	12.7
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	58.0	- 23.3	3.9	2 939.1	- 14.7	9.8
Total housing commitments	\$m	93.4	- 22.6	0.9	3 888.9	- 13.1	12.4
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	102.1	- 8.3	3.0	4 138.9	0.7	14.6
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	106.7	- 0.4	12.3	4 234.4	- 0.6	21.0
BUILDING APPROVALS, Aug. 94							
Dwelling units	no.	238	- 19.9	50.8	18 778	22.6	22.3
Value of new residential	\$m	21.2	- 24.8	- 47.8	1 797.4	31.0	43.1
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	4.9	- 5.8	22.2	239.8	28.9	33.3
Value of non-residential	\$m	21.9	- 65.9	85.6	868.2	46.3	2.1
Value of total building	\$m	48.0	- 50.9	- 18.2	2 905.3	35.0	27.1
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June qtr 94							
New houses	no.	360	3.0	- 37.5	33 632	17.2	10.2
Value of houses commenced	\$m	42.4	4.7	- 33.9	3 170.9	20.6	16.8
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	50.7	- 68.3	- 22.0	2 322.3	2.9	20.8
Value of total commencements	\$m	158.5	- 42.7	- 21.5	7 171.2	12.9	18.1
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, June qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)		133.8	- 0.8	—	110.9	1.2	3.4
Price index of house building materials, Aug. 94 (b)		151.4	- 0.1	1.4	155.0	0.3	3.2

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, OCTOBER 1994 — continued

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, June qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		111.4	-0.4	2.6	109.5	-0.3	1.4
Housing		99.3	0.5	-1.1	94.4	0.7	-0.8
Transportation		117.8	2.1	2.6	115.2	1.8	2.8
All groups		112.0	0.5	1.5	111.2	0.7	1.7
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, May qtr 94							
Original series							
Males	\$	714.0	0.2	5.9	625.1	-0.1	2.1
Females	\$	496.0	1.1	2.7	422.8	1.4	4.1
Total persons	\$	602.5	0.2	4.0	531.8	0.5	2.8
Trend series							
Males	\$	720.5	2.1	7.7	625.4	0.5	1.8
Females	\$	492.5	1.4	3.4	420.8	1.4	3.1
Total persons	\$	605.1	1.7	5.7	530.7	0.9	2.3
RETAIL TURNOVER, July 94							
Original series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	51.8	-0.4	1.0	2 529.6	0.6	1.1
Department and general stores	\$m	22.8	-2.6	15.2	821.5	-9.3	7.6
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	13.3	11.8	-7.0	1 097.6	7.8	11.1
All other stores	\$m	78.8	4.6	1.4	4 108.2	3.9	9.1
Total	\$m	166.7	2.5	2.2	8 556.9	2.0	6.7
Trend series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	53.4	-0.4	6.2	2 570.3	0.5	4.3
Department and general stores	\$m	23.9	-0.4	4.4	923.1	-0.1	5.0
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	13.1	0.8	4.8	1 113.1	1.0	10.6
All other stores	\$m	78.1	--	0.9	4 124.0	0.4	7.8
Total	\$m	168.5	-0.1	3.3	8 730.5	0.5	6.8
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, June qtr 94							
Original series							
Room nights	no.	199.2	-2.6	6.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.2	-1.7	8.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	no.	207.0	-2.8	14.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.3	-5.5	8.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Trend series							
Room nights	no.	209.5	-0.1	12.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.7	-1.1	9.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, August 94							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 072	18.5	-14.9	52 930	1.9	0.9
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	860	-3.0	-20.5	48 795	-6.2	-4.6
Trend motor vehicles	no.	923	-1.4	-7.3	51 067	--	11.5
INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, June qtr 94							
Originating	'000 tonnes	102.9	124.7	133.9	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
Receiving	'000 tonnes	122.4	-3.4	-7.6	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, June qtr 94							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 289	4.5	5.4	107 566	4.7	6.0
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 041	9.4	-2.7	99 234	8.0	4.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 299	2.9	3.1	66 237	3.6	4.8
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	265	22.7	-26.0	17 102	12.0	8.9
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 295	0.6	3.0	108 656	1.5	5.5
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 961	0.4	1.0	98 137	1.4	4.3
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 318	-0.4	3.0	67 518	1.3	2.3
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	254	-1.2	-14.5	16 895	2.6	9.5

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.00, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Latest period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Sept. 94p	2 669.2	1 991.9	1 446.9	650.0	798.5	194.8	78.4	155.2	7 984.0
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Sept. 94p	9.2	10.5	9.1	10.4	8.2	10.4	7.7	7.2	9.4
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Aug. 94	6 224	3 041	5 337	1 078	2 309	291	260	238	18 778
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Aug. 94	460.3	111.5	144.9	32.6	77.1	12.0	7.8	21.9	868.2
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Aug. 94	1 251.3	462.2	645.3	123.2	269.3	38.6	67.4	48.0	2 905.3
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	June qtr 94	1 264.5	703.0	748.3	197.3	469.2	70.1	53.5	42.1	3 547.9
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May qtr 94	632.7	613.5	582.1	598.0	612.0	592.6	634.2	716.0	616.0
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	July 94	3 009.4	2 117.7	1 537.3	653.3	885.8	218.4	n.p.	168.5	8 730.5
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	no.	Mar. qtr 94	2 900.6	1 329.2	2 324.0	471.0	761.7	256.6	277.9	210.7	8 531.7
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Aug. 1994	18 247	11 520	9 986	3 373	5 208	1 284	526	923	51 067
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)											
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
Food		June qtr 94	109.4	107.9	110.2	113.1	109.9	112.2	113.1	111.4	109.5
Housing		June qtr 94	95.9	92.4	100.7	91.9	87.8	94.2	104.5	99.3	94.4
Transportation		June qtr 94	112.7	117.5	113.8	118.5	116.0	112.8	113.9	117.8	115.2
All Groups		June qtr 94	110.0	112.0	111.5	114.4	109.1	112.4	112.4	112.0	111.2
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	June qtr 94	102.0	104.0	105.0	97.0	104.0	110.0	94.0	105.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	June qtr 94	166.0	153.0	146.0	126.0	124.0	154.0	168.0	167.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	June qtr 94	1 283	1 102	1 148	1 164	1 049	1 097	1 246	1 072	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	June qtr 94	295.0	323.0	305.0	329.0	321.0	344.0	358.0	279.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	June qtr 94	74.0	70.0	73.0	63.0	99.0	77.0	81.0	63.0	n.a.
Tea	250 g	June qtr 94	186.0	182.0	179.0	164.0	180.0	199.0	200.0	185.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	June qtr 94	292.0	254.0	237.0	313.0	365.0	209.0	280.0	266.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	June qtr 94	68.7	70.2	61.8	70.7	69.3	75.2	73.7	71.9	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	June qtr 94	67.7	69.2	60.8	69.6	68.3	74.4	72.8	70.9	n.a.

TABLE 4. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Sept. 94p	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	-0.1	1.4	0.3	0.3
Unemployment rate (trend)	Sept. 94p	-2.1	—	—	-1.0	—	-1.0	2.7	2.9	-1.1
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Aug. 94	43.4	11.3	18.9	12.9	9.1	-5.8	261.1	-19.9	22.6
Value of non-residential building approved	Aug. 94	123.3	38.3	4.5	-2.4	40.2	69.0	-8.2	-65.9	46.3
Value of all buildings approved	Aug. 94	75.2	23.0	14.1	6.7	14.4	23.7	321.3	-50.9	35.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	June qtr 94	16.2	14.5	24.8	8.4	6.3	26.3	25.6	6.0	15.8
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	May qtr 94	1.1	1.2	0.4	-0.1	0.7	0.4	0.2	1.4	0.9
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	July 94	—	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	n.p.	-0.1	0.5
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Mar. qtr 94	2.9	3.8	3.3	-0.6	1.9	2.6	3.2	3.3	2.9
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Aug. 94	0.7	—	-1.3	-0.5	-0.7	4.7	-3.5	-1.4	—
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)										
Food		-0.7	0.1	-0.9	0.4	-0.3	-0.4	0.4	-0.4	-0.3
Housing	June qtr 94	1.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.7
Transportation	June qtr 94	1.7	2.3	1.6	0.8	1.8	0.8	2.3	2.1	1.8
All Groups	June qtr 94	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.7
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	June qtr 94	1.0	1.0	—	—	—	0.9	—	1.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	June qtr 94	-0.6	-1.3	0.7	4.1	2.5	0.7	—	-1.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	June qtr 94	1.0	0.9	0.8	5.4	0.9	0.6	1.0	-4.5	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	June qtr 94	8.9	7.7	6.3	3.8	4.2	-4.2	-3.0	-0.7	n.a.
Potatoes	June qtr 94	—	-17.6	-2.7	6.8	-2.0	-10.5	-6.9	—	n.a.
Tea	June qtr 94	4.5	1.1	2.3	-1.2	1.1	4.7	3.1	4.5	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	June qtr 94	3.5	0.4	4.4	0.6	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.5	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	June qtr 94	4.9	6.7	5.1	2.6	4.8	2.3	4.4	2.9	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	June qtr 94	4.3	6.3	4.5	2.1	4.4	1.6	3.9	2.3	n.a.

Note: Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final or revised to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. - not available; p - preliminary data; n.p. - not available for publication.

